northchurch

Group Discussion Guide

re-prioritize

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Read

Read Jesus' words to us in Matthew 6:24-34.

Discuss

Jesus points to the reality that how we view our possessions reveals a lot about our heart. In verse 30, he said it's a matter of faith… if we trust God, we won't obsess so much over our "stuff." On the other hand, if we're focused on having enough "stuff," our heart will have a hard time making room for God. What active steps can you take to open room for God in your heart in this area of finance & possessions?

Jesus starts this section with some strong statements – read verse 24:

> *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

Have you experienced this to be true in your own live? What do you think Jesus means by this?

Read verses 31-32. Jesus says not to worry about how we will provide for ourselves. He says we should trust God, and not act like "pagans" or "unbelievers," who do not acknowledge God. So, how do we work this out practically in life? What's the line between "worry" and planning for the future? Is it wrong to save for a rainy day or for retirement? What's the difference between saving for the future and "running after all these things" (verse 32)?

Jesus ends this section by saying, "seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness"… in effect, "the way to not become obsessed by money or possessions is to put God first in every aspect of our lives." What are practical ways to put God first here in the 22nd century? More specifically, how can we put God first as it relates to our finances? If you have already been in the habit of putting God first in your finances, what effect has it had in your relationship with God?

Pray

Reserve at least the last 15 minutes of group time to pray for the things that came up during your discussion and any other prayer needs.